

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use by a first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) which first node maintains a table of other nodes within the network which can be used for forwarding messages within the network, said method comprising:

receiving a first signal from a second node,

analyzing the first signal to determine its signal strength,

determining if the second node is already listed in the table maintained by the first node,

if the second node is already listed in the table maintained by the first node,

comparing the signal strength of the first signal to a first predetermined  
comparison-level signal strength threshold,

if the signal strength of the first signal exceeds the first predetermined signal  
strength threshold, maintaining the second node in the table, and

if the signal strength of the first signal does not exceed the first predetermined  
signal strength threshold, discarding the first signal, and

if the second node is not listed in the table maintained by the first node,

comparing the signal strength of the first signal to a second predetermined signal  
strength threshold comparison-level greater than the first predetermined signal strength threshold,  
and

if the signal strength of the first signal exceeds either the first or second  
predetermined comparison-level signal strength threshold, adding the second node to the table,  
and

if the signal strength of the first signal does not exceed the second predetermined signal strength threshold, discarding the first signal and continuing to not list the second node in the table.

~~the first node decides that the second node may be used in the table,~~

~~wherein the second predetermined comparison level is greater than the first predetermined comparison level.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, applied in an AODV system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, applied in an IEEE 802.11 – type system.

4. (Currently Amended) A first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) configured to:

maintain a table of other nodes within the network which can be used for forwarding messages within the network,

receive a first signal from a second node,

analyze the first signal to determine its signal strength,

compare the signal strength to a first predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold if the second node is listed in the table maintained by the first node and maintain the second node in the table if the signal strength exceeds the first predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold, and

compare the signal strength to a second predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold if the second node is not listed in the table and add the second node to the table if the signal strength exceeds the second predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold,

wherein the second predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold is greater than the first predetermined ~~comparison level~~ signal strength threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ node of claim 14, applied in an AODV system.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ node of claim 14, applied in an IEEE 802.11-type system.

7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second predetermined signal strength thresholds correspond to first and second predetermined signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs).

8. (New) The node in claim 4, wherein the first and second predetermined signal strength thresholds correspond to first and second predetermined signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs).